

*Application of: JENKINS
Appln. No. 10/849,524
Page 2*

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

APR 18 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-4, and 8-10 as set forth in the complete claim listing below.

Claims 13-20 are withdrawn. Claims 21-24 are new. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A recloseable bag having front and rear faces, comprising:

a bag, and

an elongate bendable shape-retaining spine fully bonded lengthwise to a face surface of the bag and having a substantial elongate component substantially parallel to an edge of said bag.

2. (Currently Amended) A recloseable bag according to claim 1, wherein said shape-retaining material is formed with one section at [[an]] a non-straight angle to its remaining section whereby a mouth of said bag may be retained in an open position by said angled section of said shape-retaining material and may be retained in a closed position by said remaining section of said shape-retaining material.

3. (Currently Amended) A recloseable bag according to claim [[1]] 2, wherein said shape-retaining material is a T-shaped spine bonded to said bag using conventional heat sealing technology or adhesives.

4. (Currently Amended) A recloseable bag according to claim [[1]] 2, wherein said shape-retaining material is an inverted L-shaped spine bonded to said bag using conventional heat

*Application of: JENKINS
Appln. No. 10/849,524
Page 3*

sealing technology or adhesives.

5. (Original) A recloseable bag according to claim 2, wherein said bag is for storing food articles.
6. (Original) A recloseable bag according to claim 5, wherein said bag is folded and formed by a form, fill and seal (FFS) machine.
7. (Original) A recloseable bag according to claim 6, wherein said bag is folded and formed by said FFS machine with a top seam, a bottom seam and a center rear seam.
8. (Currently Amended) A recloseable bag according to claim 3, wherein said T-shaped spine is positioned with the horizontal axis of the T adjacent the top seam and the vertical axis of the T pointing towards the bottom seam whereby a mouth of said bag may be retained in an open position by said horizontal axis of said T and may be retained in a closed position by said vertical axis of said T.
9. (Currently Amended) A recloseable bag according to claim [[1]] 7, wherein said seams are heat seams.
10. (Original) The recloseable bag according to claim 3, wherein said T-shaped spine is formed of a bendable shape-retaining plastic polymer material.
11. (Original) The recloseable bag according to claim 3, wherein said T-shaped spine is formed

*Application of: JENKINS
Appln. No. 10/849,524
Page 4*

of resilient plastic having a bendable shape-retaining strand embedded centrally therein.

12. (Original) The recloseable bag according to claim [[1]] 7, wherein said bag is further comprised of two of said spines bonded to the rear face of said bag, each of said two spines positioned parallel said center rear seam.

13. (Withdrawn) A machine for manufacturing a recloseable bag with flat spines, comprising:

at least two feeder spools;

a tension roller;

an articulating alignment spool;

a press for bonding said spines to said bag material; and,

servo-driven feed motors;

wherein said servo-driven motors drive said feed spools; and,

wherein a first feeder spool feeds bag material, guided by said tension rollers and alignment spool, into said press and a second feeder spool feeds spine material into said press.

14. (Withdrawn) The machine according to claim 13, further comprising a heated press.

15. (Withdrawn) The machine according to claim 14, wherein said press is mounted to a hydraulic arm for proper stamping force.

*Application of: JENKINS
Appln. No. 10/849,524
Page 5*

16. (Withdrawn) The machine according to claim 15, wherein said press bonds said spines to said bag material using a heat-weld.

17. (Withdrawn) The machine according to claim 13, wherein said press is equipped with an integral glue applicator for adhesive bonding of the spines to the bag material.

18. (Withdrawn) The machine according to claim 13, further comprising a press with an integral cutter; wherein said second feeder spool feeds a first unitary strip of spine material into said press and a first feeder spoil feeds a second unitary strip of spine material into said press perpendicular to said first unitary strip; and wherein said cutter cuts said first and second unitary strips to form said T-shapes.

19. (Withdrawn) The machine according to claim 18, further comprising a second feeder spoil integrated into an FFS machine for feeding said bag material with said bonded spines into said FFS machine.

20. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a recloseable bag, comprising the steps of feeding bag material into a press; feeding bendable shape-retaining spine material into said press on said bag material; and, cutting and bonding said spine material to said bag material.

21. (New) A recloseable bag folded and formed by a form, fill and seal (FFS) machine having

*Application of: JENKINS
Appln. No. 10/849,524
Page 6*

front and rear faces, a top seam and a bottom seam joining said faces and a center rear seam orthogonal to and connecting said top and bottom seams, comprising:

a bag, and

a plurality of elongate bendable shape-retaining spines fully bonded to a surface of the bag and having a first substantial elongate portion substantially parallel to said center seam of said bag and a second substantial elongate portion at a non-straight angle to said first portion of said bag whereby a mouth of said bag created by breaking said top seam may be retained in an open position by said second portion of said shape-retaining material and may be returned to and retained in a closed position by said first portion of said shape-retaining material.

22. (New) A recloseable bag according to claim 21, wherein said seams are heat seams.

23. (New) A recloseable bag according to claim 21, wherein said elongate bendable shape-retaining spines are heat bonded to said surface of said bag.

24. (New) A recloseable bag according to claim 21, wherein said non-straight angle is between 10 and 170 degrees on either side of straight.